International conference on Global Warming

2187. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he attended an international conference on Global Warming at Buenos Aires, recently; if so, the salient features and the outcome thereof; and

(b) what steps his Ministry had taken on the deliberations of Rio easter Summit to project India's point of view on the subject in recent summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The 4th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held during November 2—13, 1998 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Conference considered the various issues relating to implementation of the commitments by the Parties under the UNFCCC and issues emerging out of its Kyoto Protocol mechanisms namely Clean Development Mechanism, Emission Trading and Implementation of projects among developed countries. The Conference decided upon the elements of a work programme on the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

(b) India underlined that in accordance with various Rio Principles, Agenda 21 and the UNFCCC itself, the first and overriding priority of developing countries was social and economic development and poverty eradication. At the same time, India projected the implementation of national programmes for promoting sustainable development including enhancement of energy and production efficiency, clean fuels, renewable energy technologies, afforestation and wasteland development in the form of a document titled "India: Sustainable Development"

Policy on Environment Protection

2188. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy on environment protection; and

(b) the steps taken to make clean and green environment throughout the Indian cities and towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government policy on the environment has been enunciated in the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development (1992), the Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution (1992), and the National Forest Policy (1988). The policy is given effect through a well established statutory framework and various programmes implemented by the Central and State governments, Polution Control Boards/Committees, governmental and non-governmental agencies.

The steps taken by the Government to improve the environment in the country are:—

(1) The Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

(2) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

(3) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities with effect from 1st April

1995. From 1st September 1998, only unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi.

(4) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport in various States.

(5) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petro. and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have also been notified and will come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(6) Specification of 2-stroke engine oil has been notified which shall be effective from 1.4.1999.

(7) Survey has been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board on the vehicular emissions in the major cities in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for taking mitigative measures.

(8) The ambient air quality of various cities and towns are being monitored regularly through a network of 290 monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(9) Emission from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Contro. Boards and action is taken against the defaulting units.

(10) Emission and ambient air quality standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(11) The Ministry has initiated the environmental epidemiological studies in sever critically polluted areas viz. Vapi (Gujarat), Angul-Talcher (Orissa), Chembur (Mumbai), Cochin (Kerala), Kanpur (U.P), Mandi-Govindarb (Pubjab), and Delhi. The initial feedback from the studies infers that symptomatic morbidity (eye irritation, respiratory problem, and skin lesion/irritation) is high in the areas of industrial activity.

(12) A scheme for setting up of common effluent treatment plants in different industrial areas and estates for treating effluents from clusters of small-scale industrial units has been taken up.

(13) The Ministry in order to enforce and monitor the implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification has constituted a National Coastal Zone Management Authority under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests and 13 UT/State level Coastal Zone Management Authorities. The Notification in this regard has been issued. The main objective of above Authorities is to look into the various issues related to coastal areas, enforcement of CRZ regulations, preparation of management plans in the economical stretches, ecologically fragile stretches.

Modern Forest Fire Control Scheme

2189. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the exact losses suffered every year due to forest fires;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the modern forest fire control scheme adopted during 1992 by Government achieved any results;